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MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: December 1, 2008

SUBJECT: **Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)**

As the use of Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) become common, a number of issues have been reported locally to this office, and nationally to the U. S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC).

These reports indicate that when the CFLs burn out at the end of their useful life, a number of them have a tendency to smoke or give off a burning odor.

To date, there have been no reports of the bulbs reaching the flame stage. The CPSC is closely monitoring the situation, and the CFL manufacturers are working on the issue.

You may wish to advise your staff of this issue and the potential for CFLs to be a source of smoke or "burning odors".

If you have any questions, or require assistance, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.